

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 11, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON, of New Jersey, made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Bill S. 328.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of John Pickell, asking a pension, beg leave to report:

They find that the said Pickell graduated at West Point, in the year 1822, and was commissioned 2d lieutenant in the 4th regiment of artillery, and continued in the faithful discharge of his duties as an officer in the army until the year 1838; that during his services in the Florida war, in which he was actively engaged for some three years, his health was permanently injured; and that in the battle of Fort Drane, August 12, 1836, he did most distinguishing service, in the performance of which he received an injury from which he has never recovered.

It appears that during the engagement he was compelled to detach the men under his command to act as light infantry, and to push his piece of artillery (a brass 6-pounder) across a ravine to a position in the midst of a large body of Indians, and by a rapid discharge of his cannon, loading, poising, and firing with his own hands, and entirely unaided, he prevented a flank movement of the enemy, and thereby saved nearly the whole command. In thus gallantly performing this unusual duty, the nearest proximity to the cannon was necessary, and the shock upon the right ear, from the discharge of the piece, was so severe that the next day after the battle a violent hemorrhage from the ear ensued, of which he has had returns ever since. This local injury so enfeebled his constitution that he was finally obliged to withdraw from the service, and from its effects, as the committee believe, he has become totally disabled.

The committee are of the opinion the case of the memorialist is one which comes within the spirit of our invalid pension laws, and report a bill for his relief.

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